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RYBAT/PBSUCCESS 90

[]-1642

Air

23 March 1954

TO Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

INFO Lincoln, Guatemala

FROM []

SUBJECT General - KUGOWN Operations

Specific - ^{Carlos}(Coronel) CASTILLO Armas

LIBETHENITE-4 has for a long time entertained a very low opinion of CASTILLO Armas' ability to lead a successful revolution against Guatemala. Recently he stated that he believed CASTILLO was secretly working for ARBENZ. He was asked to put his reasons in writing, and they are herewith attached for your information.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

[] Boyd I. Rolender

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Conjectures as to whether CASTILLO Armas is working secretly with ARBENZ

The following evidence suggests that there may be more than meets the eye in the way that CASTILLO Armas is directing political affairs from Honduras:

1. The apparent liberality with which he disposes of large sums of money
2. The fact that persons such as the following, of unreliable political affiliations, to date have surrounded him:
Carlos^x SALAZAR, Jose^x CALDERON Salazar, Luis^x CORONADO Lira, Manuel de Jesus^x JUAREZ, Juan^x PINILLOS, (Colonel) Roberto^x BARRIOS Pena.
3. The fact that he makes open preparations to invade Guatemala in full view of Guatemalan Government spies, and does not even consider the cost (as the time when he leased three landing crafts for \$10,000, which [Rafael^x RAMIREZ brought from Panama to El Salvador, and never utilized them). His possession of a number of vehicles in Honduras which he uses to carry wood from Honduras to Salvador and sugar from Salvador to Honduras, which activities are far removed from those of a revolutionary.
4. The publication by the government of the documents, in part authentic (which Jorge Isaac^x DELGADO obtained and sold to ARBENZ in Nicaragua) which were to be presented at Caracas as proof that an invasion was being planned under the auspices of the United States with the cooperation of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Miguel IDIGORAS, the signer of the Gentlemen's Agreement, is sure that their documents were not included in those published.
5. His insistence that all those who have a legitimate cause against the Guatemalan Government, and who have suffered abuses and torments at the hands of the government, such as Horacio de^x CORDOVA, (Licenciado) Guillermo^x DAVILA Cordova, Ruben VILLATORO and others, unite with him. He feels so strongly about having these individuals with him that he has offered incredible salaries for their presence in Honduras.
6. His disassociation with Juan^x CORDOVA Cerna, a leader of his cause, whose son was sacrificed in the attempt to take the base of La Aurora in 1950 (which attempt failed because of CASTILLO Armas' extraordinary confidence in his companions from Defense, among whom was the Chief of Guatemalan Defense.)
7. The fact that he is being publicized as a caudillo, though he is known inside Guatemala only by Army Officials (who are now enjoying many privileges and would thus not be affected.)
8. Roberto^x GOMEZ de Leon and Mario^x LOPEZ Villatoro have been detached to Mexico, and they along with Jose^x CALDERON Salazar have appointed themselves as representatives of the Guatemalan political exiles in Mexico and are trying to overshadow the actions of the Comité Pro-Liberación de Guatemala by publishing a small weekly (which doubtless costs them a good deal of money) whose editorials state that they are the only true representatives of the cause in Mexico and that those who are not with them are reactionaries and traitors.

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9. CASTILLO Armas' sister-in-law, a militant Communist, who came to Mexico from Guatemala, went to visit some Guatemalan friends, acquaintances of ours, and stated, "I don't know why you believe in the work of my brother-in-law; he is an intimate friend of ARBENZ and would never contrive against him. . . those who stay with him will repent." This is pure gossip and could or could not be true.

ARE WE GOING TO CONTINUE TO TOLERATE THIS SITUATION?

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